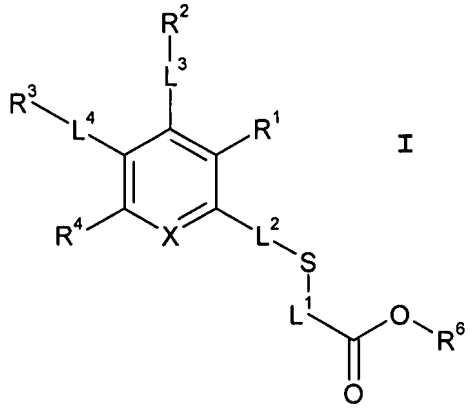
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula **I,** or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

wherein

X is [[N or]] CH;

R^1 is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or -OR, -NHR, $-NR_2$ or –SR wherein R is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$;

R^2 is H, CF_3; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^3 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are

single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;

R^3 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^2 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;

R^4 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl;

R^6 is selected from H or optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{5-6} aryl and C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} aryl;

L^1 is optionally substituted C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene or $-L^5N(R^5)L^6-$, or C_{1-4} alkylene substituted by either C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{5-7} aryl, wherein L^5 and L^6 are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene and C_{5-6} arylene, and R^5 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and further wherein L^1 may be unsubstituted C_{1-4} alkylene when X is N;

L^2 is a single bond~~; or optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene or $-L^7C(=O)L^8-$, wherein L^7 and L^8 are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene and a single bond~~; and

L^3 and L^4 are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, $-L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}-$ and $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are

independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

2. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of H and cyano.

3. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 1 wherein R^6 is H or C_{1-7} alkyl.

4. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 1 wherein L^1 is chosen from the group consisting of phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH_2-phenylene- and -CH_2C(=O)NH-phenylene-.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

6. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 1 wherein L^3 is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, –L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}- and –L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

7. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 6 wherein L^3 is a single bond.

8. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 1 wherein L^4 is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, –L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}- and –L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from

optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

9. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 8 wherein L^4 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2N(OH)C(=O)-$, -phenylene-$CH_2N(OH)C(=O)-$, -phenylene-$NHN(OH)C(=O)-$ and $-CH_2C(=O)N(OH)-$.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[10]] 1 wherein one of R^1, R^2 and R^4 are H.

12. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[10]] 1 wherein two of R^1, R^2 and R^4 are H.

13. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[10]] 1 wherein R^1, R^2 and R^4 are all H.

14. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[10]] 1 wherein one of R^2 and R^3 is optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl.

15. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 14 wherein R^3 is optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl.

16. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to

claim 14 wherein R^3 is optionally substituted phenyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl.

17. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 14 wherein R^3 is phenyl or cyclopentyl.

18. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[10]] 1 wherein L^1 is phenylene or –CH(Ph)-.

19. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[10]] 1 wherein one of L^3 and L^4 is a single bond.

20. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 19 wherein L^3 is a single bond.

Claim 21. (Canceled)

22. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[21]] 1 wherein R^4 is selected from optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl and C_{5-7} heterocyclyl.

23. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[21]] 1 wherein R^1 is cyano or hydroxamic acid.

24. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[21]] 1 wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl, CF_3 and, together with R^3, an optionally substituted butylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_6 ring fused with the aromatic

ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached.

25. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is selected from optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl.

26. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is selected from optionally substituted phenyl or thiophenyl.

27. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of thiophenyl, phenyl, *p*-chlorophenyl, *p*-methoxyphenyl, *o*-methoxyphenyl and *p*-fluorophenyl.

28. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is a monosubstituted phenyl group with the substituent group being in the *para* position.

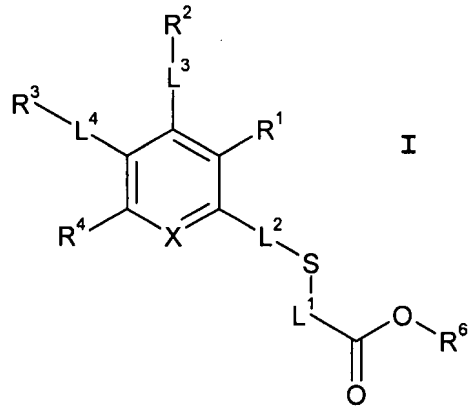
29. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[21]] 1 wherein R^3 is H or, together with R^2, an optionally substituted butylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_6 ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached.

Claim 30. (Canceled)

31. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim [[1]] 34 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 32-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula **I**:



I

or a salt, solvate or chemically protected form thereof wherein

X is [[N or]] CH;

R^1 is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or -OR, -NHR, $-NR_2$ or –SR wherein R is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$;

R^2 is H, CF_3; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^3 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;

R^3 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^2 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are

single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;

R^4 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl;

R^6 is selected from H or optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{5-6} aryl and C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} aryl;

L^1 is optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene or $-L^5N(R^5)L^6-$, wherein L^5 and L^6 are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene and C_{5-6} arylene, and R^5 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

L^2 is a single bond~~; or optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene or $-L^7C(=O)L^8-$, wherein L^7 and L^8 are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene and a single bond~~; and

L^3 and L^4 are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, $-L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}-$ and $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond; and

wherein the compound contains at least one –C(=O)N(OH)- group.

35. (Original) A compound according to claim 34 wherein at least one of R^1, L^3 or L^4 comprises a –C(=O)N(OH)- group.

36. (Original) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L^4 comprises a –

C(=O)N(OH)- group.

37. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L^4 is a L^9–C(=O)N(OH)- group.

38. (Original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L^9 is selected from C_{1-4} alkylene and C_{5-6} arylene.

39. (Original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L^9 is methylene or phenylene.

Claim 40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein at least one of R^1, R^2 and R^4 is H.

42. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein at least two of R^1, R^2 and R^4 are H.

43. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein all of R^1, R^2 and R^4 are H.

44. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein R^3 is optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl.

45. (Original) A compound according to claim 44 wherein R^3 is phenyl.

46. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein R^6 is H or

C_{1-7} alkyl.

47. (Original) A compound according to claim 46 wherein R^6 is H or C_{1-3} alkyl.

48. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L^1 is phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH_2-phenylene- or -CH_2C(=O)NH-phenylene-.

Claim 49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L^3 is a single bond.